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OUTSIDE SOURCE

Our ref: SF58/CA SD

MI-5
10 May 1979

"X"

~~Summary of Main Events of Security
Interest in the Eastern Caribbean
April 1979~~

POLITICAL MATTERS - Grenada

Please find attached two copies of this report, one for yourselves and one for your Miami Field Office. Copies have also been sent to CIA.

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ANGUILLA

Fabian FAHIE

1. See summary for February, paragraph 2.
2. Although the Youth Conference which FAHIE organised met with little success it is reported that he does have some following amongst young Anguillians. He is not expected to stand in the next General Election but it is thought that he will enter the political arena in due course.
Comment: FAHIE introduced an apparently new dimension into Anguillian politics last year when he attended a preparatory committee meeting in Barbados for the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students. As far as we know he did not travel to Havana for the Festival itself but his subsequent actions have labelled him as a radical.

ANTIGUA

Teachers' Dispute

3. See summary for March, paragraphs 5-7.
4. The Antigua Union of Teachers (AUT) called off its three month long strike only to head straight into a fresh confrontation with government when the latter asked returning teachers to report to the Ministry of Education. The AUT contended that there was no reason for individual teachers to report to the Ministry since it was the union which had called the strike in the first place and the union which had called it off.
Comment: We have not heard whether this latest confrontation has resulted in any further industrial action on the part of the AUT but it seems that even if the strike is nominally settled the problems between the teachers and the government are by no means over.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

5. Nothing to report.

MONTSERRAT

Trade Union Seminar

6. The Montserrat Allied Workers Union (MAWU) in conjunction with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) hosted a seminar for thirty two Montserratian trade unionists at the end of March. The objects of the seminar were reported to be firstly to promote the development of trade unionism on the island and secondly, to educate the working class concerning the role and need for trade unions in the region. The speakers included Verene THOMAS, General Secretary of MAWU and Richard JACOBS, lecturer at the UWI St Augustine (Trinidad). CUBA.
Comment: Verene THOMAS came to notice last July when she attended the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students in Havana. Richard JACOBS is a self-confessed pro-Cuban Marxist who has a significant history of political activity.

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ST KITTS

7. Nothing to report.

ST VINCENT

YULIMO

8. It has been reliably reported that in early April, the Marxist group YULIMO had a total of 104 paid up members.

Comment: This membership figure is not particularly high but we note that fifteen of these people joined in the wake of the Grenada coup.

9. Caspar London ~~BROWNE~~, Chairman of YULIMO and President of the Marxist orientated National Workers Union (NWU) left for Bulgaria on 7 April. It is believed he was to attend a World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) meeting in Sofia. (The NWU is affiliated to the WFTU).

10. A reliable and well placed source has reported that Dave COOK, National Organiser of the Communist Party of Great Britain, has requested assistance for YULIMO militants from the UK Young Communist League (YCL). This followed a meeting he had with Vincentian radicals in Kingston in December when they were attending the first Congress of the Workers Party of Jamaica.

Comment: It has been further reported that the YCL has subsequently taken up COOK's proposal.

3 May 1979

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OUTSIDE SOURCE

Our reference: SF52/17

15 May 1979

"X" (Mr C G Sullivan)

POLITICAL MATTERS

GRENADA

Please find attached two reports received from our colleague in Trinidad about Grenada.

2. This information has also been sent to CIA.

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~~INVOLVEMENT OF FOREIGN SECURITY FORCES IN GRENADA~~

Date of Information : Mid-April 1979

Source : Well placed to report on the Guyana Security Forces

1. The Guyanese Security Forces' Presence in Grenada consists of the following:

- A. An infantry platoon of the Guyanese Defence Force (GDF) composed of three officers and eighteen other ranks.
- B. A GDF Lieutenant Colonel or Major in overall command who has direct access to the Grenada Prime Minister, Maurice ~~X~~ Bishop.
- C. A Superintendent of the Guyanese Police, designated Special Branch Adviser, located in the Special Branch office, who also has direct access to Bishop. (There is no Guyanese police presence elsewhere in the Grenada Police).

2. The GDF is giving basic military training to other ranks of the Peoples Revolutionary Army (PRA) in Grenada. Twenty members of the PRA have been sent to Guyana for officer training by the GDF. Six members of the Grenada Police are undergoing VIP Protection training in Guyana by the Guyanese Special Branch. After they have completed this training they may also undergo a basic Special Branch course.

3. Assistant Superintendent Winston ~~X~~ Grenada Courtney, replaced by a Pro-Gairy officer before the coup, as Head of Special Branch (HSB), was re-appointed HSB by the four-man committee now running the police under the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG). However, when Bishop heard of the appointment he ordered Courtney's immediate removal. Courtney's second in command, removed by Gairy at the same time as Courtney has been appointed Acting HSB. He is Sergeant X Douglas, a Guyanese by birth.

4. Grenada B. in Guyana The Cuban Security Forces' presence in Grenada consist of about 50 uniformed men. Their arms consists of rifles and light automatic weapons. Twenty two trucks were required to unload crates from the Cuban vessel Matanzas. It is likely that some of the crates contained heavy machine guns and light artiller weapons.

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Source comment:

5. Paragraph 2. Only one out of the six policemen sent for VIP training is regarded as below standard.

6. Paragraph 3. Bishop is determined not to appoint British trained or British associated officers to positions of authority or influence in the police.

7. Paragraph 4. The Cubans are not involved in training the PRA. Their function is likely to be the defence of Grenada from external attack until local security forces are capable of taking over the role. The last sentence of paragraph 4 is based on the opinion of a GDF officer who has seen the crates.

Field Comment:

8. Paragraph 1(c). This officer may be Joe ~~Beckles~~, Deputy Head of Guyana Special Branch.

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GRENADA - INTERNAL

Date of Information : Mid-April 1979

Source : Well placed to report

BLACK GRENADA

1. Friction is developing between Bishop and the Commander of the PRA, Hudson Austin. This is partly due to Bishop's apparent desire to control everything but also due to colour complexes between a "yellow" Bishop and a black Austin.
2. Bernard Coard, Minister of Finance, was in Barbados at the time of the recent fisheries talks between Guyana and Suriname. He returned to Guyana with Burnham at the latter's invitation and had private talks with him before returning to Grenada.

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